

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Romans 13:8-10

Today we'll consider our obligation to love one another

I. THE COMMANDS

A. LOVE ONE ANOTHER (8)

1. The Requirement Commanded
 - a. "Love one another" is commanded 13x in the NT
 - b. Love is willed and not wooed.
2. The Reason for the Command
 - a. Our nature: We are naturally and normally selfish
 - b. Our need: We have to be told to love, otherwise we will not
3. The Reality of the Command
 - This is a constant debt and never paid up
4. The Reciprocity of the Command
 - This is not a one-way giving of love but a sharing from all to all
5. The Record of this Command
 - a. Love declares our salvation - I John 4:7-8
 - b. Love declares our consistency - I John 4:20-21
 - c. Love declares our discipleship - John 13:34-35

B. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR (9)

1. The Summary
 - The other five commands are effectively carried out if we love our neighbor
2. The Standard
 - Given by Jesus in Matthew 22:36-39

C. LOVE DOES NO WRONG (10)

1. Purpose: The law and love serve the same end ... no harm
2. Purity: By not harming your neighbor you fulfill the law's requirements

II. SOME COROLLARIES

A. BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER - Ephesians 4:32

1. Kindness
 - a. Being good-hearted and thoughtful
 - b. Exp: Onesimus seeking out imprisoned Paul to minister to him - II Tim. 1:16-17
2. Tenderheartedness
 - a. Sensitive and easily moved or gripped by the needs of others
 - b. Exp: The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:33
3. Forgiveness
 - a. A gracious attitude that is willing to pardon one from debt or obligation
 - b. Exp: Just as Christ forgave you! - Col. 2:13-14

B. ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER - I Thessalonians 5:11

1. "Therefore encourage one another"
 - a. Literally: To call to one's side
 - b. Providing comfort or cheer ... giving hope to those tempted to give up
 - c. Exp: Barnabus when Saul was newly saved - Acts 9:26-27
2. "Build up one another"
 - a. To increase another's potential ... make them more able, promote their growth
 - To enable, coach, mentor or direct
 - b. Exp: II Cor. 1:3-4 where those sorrowing receive assistance from those who have sorrowed

C. GREET ONE ANOTHER - Romans 16:16

1. Nearness is required
 - You have to be here in order to kiss
2. The greeting should involve a sincere expression of genuine love
3. No one should be ignored or avoided

III. OUR CONDUCT - Application

A. BE EXPANDING IN LOVE - I Thessalonians 3:12

B. BE EXCELLENT IN LOVE - I Thessalonians 4:9-10

C. BE EXCITING IN LOVE - II Thessalonians 1:3-4

D. BE EXTREME IN LOVE - I Peter 4:8

E. BE EXEMPLARY IN LOVE - I John 3:23

CONCLUSION: Might we be a church of selfless saints who truly seek to love one another